

The Council is grounded in prevention and works to ensure justice by building equitable and effective opportunities for children, youth and families to thrive in Vermont.

**Children and Family Council or Prevention Programs  
Meeting notes February 17, 2022, 10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
Zoom Meeting Invite or Phone**

**Members Present:** Laurey Burris, Amy Davenport, Bob Sheil, Donn Hutchins, Katherine O’Day, Kreig Pinkham, Linda Johnson, Christopher Lukasik, Matt Wolf, Mackenzie Mazza, Mike Loner, Stu Berry, Karen Vastine, Julia Brand, Sparks  
**Partners Present:** Elizabeth Morris, Tyler Allen

**Vermont Afterschool: Un bias Training for Grant Reviewers**

Option 1: Wednesday, March 16th – 11:00-12:15 ET

Option 2: Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> - 3:00-4:15 ET

Option 3: Thursday, March 17th – 4:00-5:15 ET

Approval of February Meeting Notes. Passed. Hon. Amy Davenport abstains.

**Other Updates from Kreig:** While I’m open to re-election in the upcoming cycle, it will be with the express intent of identifying a pathway for sustainable leadership for the Council and that I will be resigning from the Council within a two-year period.

**Youth Services Committee:**

- Continued to work on survey for youth drop-in centers
  - We believe that youth drop-in centers are key to ensuring that youth are engaged and empowered in their community (this is in the three-year plan.) We are reaching out to learn more about the resources and needs of those currently in operation.
  - Another goal for the committee is to ensure that youth receive a free, high-quality education in a safe school environment. The Committee is considering using their funds to put together a school-related conference, not with the intent to put out JJDP funds for schools, but instead to share best practices on the below objectives.
    - i. Encourage the development of efforts to reduce truancy.
    - ii. Encourage schools to develop alternatives to school detention and suspension and evidence-based prevention and/or intervention programs.
    - iii. Reduce school suspensions for youth in Vermont.
    - iv. Ensure that Police involvement in Vermont Schools is minimal.
    - v. Encourage schools to develop programs that involve social workers, school counselors, home-school coordinators and other social-emotional practitioners whenever possible instead of law enforcement.

**ERD Committee:**

- Would like use \$100,000 of JJDP funds to hire a consultant that would work to dismantle racism & white supremacy. This would be done in two stages, the first of which would be focused on training and understanding of the work on an individual and group level, the second stage would be focused on outcomes (i.e., reviewing the structure, format, by-laws, etc.)
- Concerns about the high cost of the consultant and opposing concerns about why we are questioning the high cost, and that we wouldn’t be considering the cost for white youth.

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- Reminder that there is a third position associated with the grant (the Ethnic and Racial Disparity Coordinator), that is paid out of SAG's formula grant yearly. Vermont combines that role with the JJ specialist and has not spent title II dollars on that role like other states.

### **Systems Improvement Committee (did not meet in January)**

### **Governor's Report – Calendar Year 2021**

As we near the end of the calendar year, we look forward towards writing and submitting our annual report to Governor and Legislature. Please see the draft in your meeting materials. This draft mirrors past year's reports and mainly reviews the funding related work that you have done as a Council. Kreig drafted a Cover Letter– see meeting materials.

Vote to pass on the annual report. Friendly amendment to include language in the annual report regarding data concerns and issues. Passed.

### **Meeting Feedback & Education on Juvenile Justice Issues**

Going forward, we will put together a short survey to be sent out after the meetings to gather feedback/questions that may not have been voiced during the meeting. This survey would be anonymous.

In March, the last hour will be dedicated to an overview of the Juvenile Justice System.